

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00420 080811Z
ACTION NEA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, IZ, SA, BG
SUBJECT: PROPOSED PENNSYLVANIA STATE IOGA

REF: (A) STATE 040474 (B) BAGHDAD 0288

1. WE STILL BELIEVE IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE GOI WOULD APPROVE PENSYLVANIA IOGA AND DOUBT THAT WE COULD INCONSPICUOUSLY MAKE APPOINTMENTS AND ARRANGEMENTZ FOR A GROUP AS LARGE AS 10 OR 12 BUSINESSMEN. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE IN THE PAST ARRANGED APPOINTMENTS FOR AND EVEN RECEIVED TRADE MIB IONS WITHOUT EXPLICIT GOI APPROVAL, WE BELIEVE THIS PRACTICE IS INADVISABLE IN THIS CASE WHEN WE HAVE SPECIFIC INDICATIONS BEFOREHAND THAT THE GOI WOULD NOT APPROVE TRADEPENSION. THEREFORE, WE CONTINUE TO RECOMMEND THAT ONLY REPEAT ONLY SELECTED TRADE MISSION MEMBERS (NO MORE THAN 5 OR 6) VISIT IRAQ AS PRIVATE BUSINESS GROUP. WE WOULD PROPOSE MAKING SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO WHICH MEMBERS MIGHT FIND IRAQ PARTICULARLY FRUITFUL AFTER IOGA RECRUITMENT IS COMPLETED.

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2. WE ALSO BELIEVE PRESIDENT OR OTHER RANKIOB OFFICIAL OF PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY WOULD BE WELCOME

PARTICIPANT IN IRAQ, AND ENDORSE PENN STATE PARTICIPATION AS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND US-IRAQI CULTURAL AS WELL AS COMMERCIAL RELATIONS. IRAQIS WOULD LIKELY BE MOST INTERESTED IN TRAINING POSSIBILITIES. IN FACT, IF PENN

STATE PRESIDENT DOES PARTICIPATE, WE MAY EVEN WANT OFFICIALLY TO INFORM THE GOI OF HIS VISIT, MENTIONING THAT A SMALL GROUP OF PENNSYLVANIA BUSINESSMEN WILL BE TRACLING WITH HIM.

3. COMMENT: WATER RESOURCES TRADE MISSION AND EDP SEMINAR HAVE DRIVEN HOME NECESSITY OF TAILORING TRADE PROMOTION EVENTS TO SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF IRAQI MARKET. OUR PROPOSAL OF ONLY A SELECTED GROUP, PERHAPS LED BY PENN STATE PRESIDENT, TO VISIT IRAQ WOULD NOT ONLY PACKAGE THE PENN IOGA IN A FORM TO WHICH THE IRAQIBK WILL LIKELY NOT OBJECT BUT ALSO REDUCE THE GROUP TO MANAGEABLE SIZE AND ELIMINATE COMPANIES WHICH WILL PROBABLY NOT FIND IRAQI MARKET REWARDING. RESULT, WE BELIEVE, WOULD BE TO ENHANCE THE PROBABILITY OF A PRODUCTIVE VISIT FOR THE GROUP. WE RECOMMEND THAT USDOC MAKE STRONG EFFORT TO CONVINCE PENNSYLVANIA IOGA KBRGANIZERS TO ACCEPT OUR PROPOSAL.
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